

## **PEDIATRIC THERAPY SPECIALIST ASSISTANT**

### **DEFINITION:**

To assist Physical Therapists in providing prescribed medically necessary physical therapy treatment to physically disabled children; and to perform related work as required.

### **DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

Pediatric Therapy Specialist Assistant is a para-professional class found only in the California Children Services (CCS) Program of the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). Incumbents are licensed by the Physical Therapy Board of California and have specialized experience in the field of pediatrics. Pediatric Therapy Specialist Assistants work under supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist.

### **EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:**

Demonstrates and administers exercises and activities developed by licensed Physical Therapists to physically disabled children; prepares apparatus or equipment used for individual treatments; transports children in therapy and prepares them for treatment; assists with the various physical therapy modalities such as hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, therapeutic exercise, gait training and massage; observes and records reaction to treatment and physical condition of patients, such as temperature, pulse, respiration and color; cleans and cares for equipment and furnishings; and generally aids in the maintenance of the section.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

#### **General Knowledge of:**

- Human anatomy and physiology, including all systems of the body, with emphasis on musculoskeletal, circulatory and nervous systems.
- Psychology and human relations.
- Relationships of anatomical structures to normal and abnormal movement, including surface anatomy.
- Patho-physical conditions resulting from injury and disease, including selected disabilities resulting from medical, orthopedic, or neurological conditions.
- Concepts and scope of physical therapy and its relationships to other health care professions.
- Medical-legal aspects of physical therapy care.
- Professional ethics and conduct.
- Basic principles and uses of electricity, heat and water as applied as therapeutic treatment.

#### **Skills and Abilities to:**

- Apply basic principles and uses of electricity, heat and water as therapeutic treatment.
- Apply physical therapy modalities including hot and cold packs, paraffin, whirlpool, and ultrasound.
- Apply basic principles of massage.
- Apply the basic principles of ambulation and functional activities to individuals and groups.
- Understand the use of assistive-supportive devices used for transfers and gait training; the use of wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, prostheses, braces, and splints.

**EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:**

Education, training and /or experience, which demonstrates possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. An example of qualifying education/experience is: one (1) year experience working with physically disabled children as a licensed Physical Therapist Assistant.

**SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES OR REQUIREMENTS:****License:**

1. Possession of a Physical Therapist Assistant License issued by the Physical Therapy Board of California, by the time of appointment. (California Administrative Code, Section 1375.18 adopted 1975); (California Business and Professional Code Sections 2655-2655.12, 1971).
2. A valid California driver's license or the ability to arrange for field travel may be required by time of appointment.

**Physical Requirements:**

Must have the physical ability to lift and move patients.

**Background Investigation:**

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness with no felony convictions. Misdemeanor convictions may be disqualifying depending on number, severity, and recency. Applicants will be subject to a thorough background check.